

Please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims

Please cancel Claims 6, 11, 16 and 17 without prejudice.

Please amend Claims 1, 12, and 18.

- 3, 1. (Twice Amended) A powder comprising metal containing or metal alloy containing anisotropic particles, wherein said powder is produced by a method comprising:
- (a) heating a starting powder consisting essentially of non-dendritic metal or metal alloy containing particles under conditions suitable for initial stage sintering, thereby forming a lightly sintered material; and
  - (b) breaking the lightly sintered material, thereby producing a powder comprising anisotropic particles having irregular morphology, said particles comprising aggregated and fused non-dendritic metal or metal alloy containing particles having an air-laid density which is lower than the air-laid density of said starting powder,
- and wherein the non-dendritic particles independently have a largest dimension of about 10  $\mu\text{m}$  or less,
- and further wherein the particle comprises a metal selected from the group consisting of nickel, chromium, molybdenum, cobalt, iron and combinations thereof.

- Q2 12. (Amended) The powder of Claim 1 wherein said powder has an air-laid density of about 2.4  $\text{g}/\text{cm}^3$ .

- Q3 18. (Twice Amended) A powder comprising metal containing or metal alloy containing anisotropic metal particles having irregular morphology, said particles comprising aggregated and fused non-dendritic metal or metal alloy containing particles,